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## POPULATION AND DWELLINGS.—TERRITORIES, 4th APRIL, 1921.

(EXCLUSIVE OF FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS IN THE NORTHERN AND FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORIES AND OF THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA).

Territory.	Population.			Dwellings.			Total.
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Occu- pied.	Unoccu- pied.	Being Built.	
Northern Territory ..	2,821	1,046	3,867	1,074	138	1	1,213
Federal Capital Territory ..	1,567	1,005	2,572	526	29	..	555
Norfolk Island ..	339	378	717	168	22	3	193
Papua ..	1,408	670	2,078	672	43	4	719
Territory of New Guinea ..	2,502	671	3,173	1,056	18	..	1,074

## § 13. The Aboriginal Population.

In Official Year Book No. 17, pp. 951 to 961, a brief account was given of the Australian aboriginal population, its origin, its numbers as estimated from time to time, and the steps taken for its protection. Pages 879 and 880 of this issue contain a statement showing the numbers of full-blood and half-caste aboriginals in each of the States and Territories of Australia at successive periods.

## § 14. The Chinese in Australia.

In Official Year Book No. 18, pp. 951 to 956, a brief historical sketch was given regarding "The Chinese in Australia," but limitations of space preclude its repetition in the present volume.

## § 15. The Pacific Islanders in Australia.

1. *General*.—The difficulty of obtaining workmen after the abolition of transportation to New South Wales in the year 1840, was responsible for the introduction into Australia not only of the first Chinese, but of the first Pacific Islanders. In 1842 Benjamin Boyd introduced some natives from the New Hebrides to work on his property at Boyd Town, near Table Bay. Encouraged by his success, other pastoralists, especially in the Riverina district, also tried the experiment of introducing Melanesian labour, Boyd fitting out vessels to supply the demand. There is no record of the number of islanders brought to New South Wales, but it was sufficiently large for the experiment to be watched with interest, and in some quarters with misgiving. In 1847 complaints were made by the British Consul in Fiji of violence committed by the crews of two of Boyd's vessels while endeavouring to obtain native labour, and steps were taken by the authorities to protect the islanders. This first experiment with black labour, however, proved a failure. Many of the islanders died, some because the climate was unsuitable, others through homesickness and loneliness. Most of the survivors deserted, and as they could not legally be brought back, importation gradually came to an end.

2. *Queensland*.—(i) *General*. The first Kanakas—by which name the islanders brought to Australia became known—arrived in 1863, when a Sydney merchant and shipowner, Captain Towns, introduced 67 natives to engage in cotton growing. Towns, who wished to demonstrate that cotton—for the production of which the colony offered a bonus—could be profitably grown in Queensland, obtained a tract of land not far from Brisbane for an experimental plantation, and, while for various reasons the industry made little progress, the islanders proved well suited for the work.

In 1864 the Hon. Louis J. Hope obtained 54 islanders for employment in sugar growing. The success of his experiment encouraged others to undertake the same work, and soon pioneers commenced pushing northward. Accordingly, shiploads of Kanakas, who at first had been brought to Moreton Bay only, were landed at Bowen and other ports convenient to the settlers, while agents took up the business of procuring recruits.

It was with the assistance of these labourers that the sugar industry, which has since become so important, was established, and, aided by the increasing numbers of recruits it greatly expanded as years went by. At first the islanders were obtained from the New Hebrides, but as this group could not continue to supply the growing demand, the recruiting agents extended their activities to the Solomon Islands and afterwards to the New Britain Archipelago. New Guinea was the last place to be exploited, probably because the difficulties of obtaining natives there were greater, while the Papuans did not readily adapt themselves to the new conditions in Queensland.

(ii) *Numbers Introduced.* It is estimated that up to the end of 1890 between 46,000 and 47,000 Kanakas had been brought to Australia. Of these, a few went to the sugar fields on the north coast of New South Wales. In Queensland, at the various censuses taken since 1868 up to the abolition of recruiting, their numbers were given as follows:—

#### KANAKAS IN QUEENSLAND—1868 TO 1901.

Year.					Males.	Females.	Total.
1868	..	..	..	..	1,536	7	1,543
1871	..	..	..	..	2,255	81	2,336
1881	..	..	..	..	6,000	396	6,396
1886	..	..	..	..	9,116	921	10,037
1891	..	..	..	..	8,498	745	9,243
1901	..	..	..	..	8,380	380	8,760

Owing to the abuses which had crept in, the Queensland Government decided in 1890 to terminate recruiting, but, as the idea of replacing the extensive plantations worked with the aid of Kanakas by small holdings worked by the holders themselves was found impracticable, the importation was allowed to continue.

3. *Commonwealth Legislation.*—In 1901, in accordance with the “White Australia” policy, the Commonwealth decided to abolish the recruiting of these island labourers, and an Act was passed whereby the traffic was to cease in 1904, while the Federal authorities were given power to deport any Kanaka found in Australia after 1906. The Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901, was amended in 1906 to allow the following South Sea Islanders to settle in Australia:—(i) All who were in Queensland before October, 1879; (ii) those who had lived there continuously for 20 years; (iii) Those whose return because of their marriage contrary to tribal customs involved risk either to themselves or their families; (iv) the very old and infirm, and (v) the owners of freehold land.

There were at the end of 1906 roughly 5,000 Kanakas in Australia, and of these 3,642 were repatriated. Some of those exempted from deportation were settled on the little island of Moa, in Torres Strait.

4. *Number at the Census of 1921.*—At the census of 1921 there were 1,869 Melanesians in Queensland (1,351 males, 518 females), and 228 in New South Wales, while a few had drifted to some of the other States. Approximately 50 per cent. were born in Australia. Half-castes with one of the parents a European numbered about 300.

In addition to the Melanesians, it may be noted that owing to the annexation in 1878 by Queensland of the islands in Torres Strait, some 2,300 Papuans were included in the population of Australia. These have become civilized and, with a limited number of natives indentured from Papua, assist in manning the pearling fleet centred on Thursday Island.